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Jan. 7, 2005
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NEWS RELEASE

HOW ARE THE PARTING OF THE RED SEA AND POTTY TRAINING SIMILAR? NEW HUMOROUS PARENTING BOOK EXPLORES THE MIRACLES OF FATHERHOOD

DAYTON, Ohio — Tim Bete knows all about miracles. And the minor ones aren't all that different from the blockbusters.

"The parting of the Red Sea was a major miracle. The day you successfully potty train your child is a minor miracle. Both involve the miracle of dryness and the release from bondage," says the father of four young children. "In the case of the Red Sea, the bondage was from Pharoah. With potty training, the bondage came in the form of size-5 Pampers."

That's the kind of quick wit and playful humor interspersed throughout Bete's first book, *In the Beginning...There Were No Diapers: Laughing and Learning in the First Years of Fatherhood* (Ave Maria Press/Sorin Books, \$12.95).

Bete, national marketing manager and director of the Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop at the University of Dayton, credits his involvement with the workshop as the nudge he needed to turn a self-syndicated parenting humor column that's been featured in the *Christian Science Monitor* and a dozen parenting magazines into a book.

"I was once told my writing is a cross between Dave Barry and Erma Bombeck, but that brings to mind Mr. Barry in a dress, so I try not to think about it," he jokes. *Editor & Publisher* magazine in a December story about Barry's hiatus listed Bete as one of the possibilities for his replacement.

Bete started writing an Internet-based column, "Where I Live," four years ago as a way to capture stories about his family that his children could read when they got older. He ruminates on such pressing issues as the break-up of Barbie and Ken and the proper technique for changing a diaper in a cramped airplane bathroom. He's convinced God did not create diapers, a brainstorm that inspired the name of his book.

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"God created Adam and Eve as adults for a good reason — because he could. If you were all-powerful, would you choose to change diapers?" he asks.

Although the book is published by a Christian publisher, it's not overtly religious, though Bete says his faith permeates his work.

"I try to let God work through me whenever I write. There are many members of the body of Christ. I just happen to be the funny bone."

Formerly the editor of *Early Childhood News* magazine, Bete, 42, resides in Beavercreek, Ohio, with his wife, Lynn, and four children — all under the age of 10, including a newborn.

"Children are one of the greatest blessings God gives us," he says. "They smooth the rough edges off parents. If you're impatient, kids will wear you down until you begin to learn patience. If you like everything just so, your children will teach you to live with a little chaos in your life. Some days your kids smooth your rough edges with the gentleness of 120-grit sandpaper. Other days the smoothing feels more like a block of Parmesan cheese being grated."

For more about the book, including how to order a copy, see www.TimBete.com. The book is also available at amazon.com and bookstores.

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